

What is claimed is:

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1. A split personal computer system for selectively processing video portions, input/output portions, computational portions and storage portions of personal computer tasks, comprising:
 - a remote portion adapted to selectively perform the computational portions and the storage portions of the personal computer tasks;
 - a local portion adapted to selectively perform the video portions and the input/output portions of the personal computer tasks, the local portion comprising:
 - a display unit located remotely from the remote portion of the split personal computer system;
 - an accessory unit in communication with the display unit;
 - an input unit in communication with the accessory unit to input data signals into the accessory unit;
- communication means for interfacing the accessory unit with the remote portion of the split personal computer system for permitting data signals received by the accessory unit from the input unit to be transmittable from the accessory unit to the remote portion of the split personal computer system, the data signals being processable by the remote portion of the split personal computer system to generate output signals, the output signals including video signals and being transmittable from the remote portion of

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the split personal computer system to the accessory unit, and transmittable from the accessory unit to the display unit.

2. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the accessory unit of the local portion of the split personal computer system is disposed in a portable housing.

3. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the accessory unit of the local portion of the split personal computer system comprises:

a local computer;

an interface in communication with the local computer; and

a signal separator interface means in communication with the local computer and the interface for receiving at least two types of signals and for selectively transmitting the signals to one of the local computer and the interface based on an identifier included in the signals.

4. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the communication means includes:

a first communication link means for

transmitting data in between the accessory unit and the remote portion of the split personal computer system; and

a second communication link means for

selectively transmitting video signals from the remote portion of the split personal computer system to the accessory unit.

5. A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the first communication link means are telephone communication links, and the second communication link means are television communication links.

6. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the accessory unit of the local portion of the split personal computer system is included in a cable television interface box which is selectively connectable to a cable television connection.

7. A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the remote portion of the split personal computer system includes:

a plurality of remote computer units; and
a remote system controller means for networking and controlling the remote computer units, the remote system controller means including means for receiving a remote logon command from the accessory unit and for checking the validity of the remote logon command, the remote system controller means allowing connection to at least one of the remote computer units if the remote logon command is valid and prohibiting connection if the particular remote logon command is not valid.

8. A system as defined in claim 7, wherein the remote system controller is programmed with a billing program which counts the time periods in which the accessory unit is connected to at least one of the remote computer units.

9. A split personal computer system, for selectively executing personal computer tasks comprising:

a remote portion of the split personal computer system adapted to perform the computational and storage portions of the personal computer tasks;

a plurality of local portions disposed remotely from the remote portion of the split personal computer system, each local portion of the split personal computer system being adapted to solely perform the video and input/output portions of the personal computer tasks and including:

a television display unit;

a television accessory unit in communication with the television display unit; and

an input unit in communication with the television accessory unit to input data signals into the television accessory unit; and

communication means for interfacing the television accessory unit of each of the local portions of the split personal computer system with the remote portion of the split personal computer system for permitting data signals received by the television accessory units from the respective input units to be transmittable from the television accessory units to the remote portion of the split personal computer system, the data signals being

processable by the remote portion of the split personal computer system to generate output signals, the output signals including video signals and being transmittable from the remote portion of the split personal computer system to respective television accessory units, and transmittable from the television accessory units to respective television display units as television signals.

10. A system as defined in claim 9, wherein at least one television accessory unit of the local portions of the split personal computer system is disposed in a portable housing.

11. A system as defined in claim 9, wherein the television accessory units of the local portion of the split personal computer system comprise:

- a local computer;
- a television interface in communication with the local computer; and
- a signal separator interface means in communication with the local computer and the television interface for receiving at least two types of television signals and for selectively transmitting the television signals to one of the local computer and the television interface based on an identifier included in the television signals.

12. A system as defined in claim 9 wherein the communication means includes:

- a first communication link means for transmitting data in between the television accessory units and the remote portion of the split personal computer system; and
- a second communication link means for selectively transmitting video signals from the remote portion of the split personal computer system to the television accessory units.

13. A system as defined in claim 12, wherein the first communication link means are telephone communication links, and the second communication link means are television communication links.

14. A system as defined in claim 9, wherein the television accessory units of the local portion of the split personal computer system are cable television interface boxes which are selectively connectable to respective cable television connections.

15. A system as defined in claim 9, wherein the remote portion of the split personal computer system includes:

- a plurality of remote computer units; and
- a remote system controller means for networking and controlling the remote computer units, the remote system controller means including means for receiving a remote logon command from the television accessory

unit and for checking the validity of the remote logon command, the remote system controller means allowing connection to at least one of the remote computer units if the remote logon command is valid and prohibiting connection if the particular remote logon command is not valid.

16. A system as defined in claim 15, wherein the remote system controller is programmed with a billing program which counts the time periods in which the television accessory units are connected to respective remote computer units.

17. A method for utilizing a personal computer, comprising the steps of:

inputting respective data signals into a plurality of television accessory units; outputting, by the television accessory units, the respective data signals to a remote portion of the split personal computer system, the remote portion of the split personal computer system being disposed remotely from the television accessory units;

receiving, by the remote portion of the split personal computer system, the respective data signals;

processing, by the remote portion of the split personal computer system, the respective data signals with at least one application program to generate output signals;

outputting, by the remote portion of the split personal computer system, the output signals to the respective television accessory units;
receiving, by the television accessory units, the output signal produced by the remote portion of the split personal computer system from the data signals input to that respective television accessory unit;
outputting, by each television accessory unit, the respective output signals received from the remote portion of the split personal computer system to a television display unit as television signals;
receiving, by each television display unit, the television signals output by the respective television accessory units; and
outputting, by each television display unit, the television signals in a format perceivable by at least one individual located near the television display unit.

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